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LETTER DATED 16 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from the Canadian Government I am writing to you, as the current President of the Security Council, to present Canada's views concerning the Council's ongoing consideration of the situation in Kosovo.

Intense diplomatic efforts by Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and others, backed by the credible threat of the use of force, have led to an agreement which we hope will put an end to the violence in Kosovo.

The degree of success in implementing the agreement, which includes demands made by the Security Council in its resolution 1199 (1998), will depend upon the ability of the international community to use whatever means are necessary to enforce the agreement and to protect the monitors that are to be deployed in the Kosovo area.

Steps to implement that agreement by all of the parties must be irreversible and verifiable. A temporary lull, followed by renewed violence in Kosovo as international attention refocuses elsewhere, is not an acceptable scenario.

It is the strong view of the Canadian Government that the Security Council should consider moving quickly to adopt a resolution to lock in the agreement that Slobodan Milosevíc, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, has signed, and to provide for its enforcement. We believe this resolution ought to be passed under the authority of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and give explicit authorization for the use of force should that be required to enforce the agreement in the event it is violated.

Security Council resolution 1199 (1998) clearly calls for the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to cooperate fully with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, including facilitating investigations concerning possible crimes against humanity. Canada encourages Member States of the Security Council to insist on compliance in this respect.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Robert R. FOWLER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative